



P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
April 16, 2004

Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620
DEQ, Planning, Prevention & Assistance Division, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620
DEQ, Permitting & Compliance Division, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office	Parks Division
Legal Unit	Design & Construction
Lands Section	Regional Supervisors/Information Officers

Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
Montana State Parks Association, PO Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
Montana Environmental Information Center, PO Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Montana State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave, PO Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, PO Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
Montana Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, PO Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hirst, PO Box 728, Libby, MT 59923
USFWS, Ecological Service, 2900 4th Ave N, Billings, MT 59103
Big Horn County Commissioners, 121 W 3rd, Hardin, MT 59034
Rosebud County Commissioners, Rosebud County Courthouse, Forsyth, MT 59327
Bob Peterson, PO Box 8, Decker, MT 59025
Tongue River Water User's Association, C/O Roger Muggli, Yellowstone Valley, Miles City, MT 59301

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the renovation of the downstream campground at Tongue River Reservoir State Park, and is submitted for your consideration.

Questions and comments will be accepted until May 17, 2004.

If you have questions or need additional copies of the draft EA, please contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at (406) 232-0900. Those of you receiving this electronically will not receive a copy of the site development plan, if you are interested in obtaining a copy please contact our office. Please send any written comments to the following address:

Tongue Reservoir State Park Renovations EA
C/O Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301

Sincerely,

Bryce Christensen
Region Seven Supervisor

Enclosure

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS MEPA/NEPA CHECKLIST

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This brief environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project sponsor has a responsibility to ensure that all impacts have been addressed. Some effects may be negative; others may be positive. Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development	_____
Renovation	___X___
Maintenance	_____
Land Acquisition	_____
Equipment Acquisition	_____
Other (Describe)	_____

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor. Bob Peterson,
Manager, Tongue River Reservoir State Park, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 8,
Decker, MT 59025. 406-757-2298 trsp@rangeweb.net

4. Name of project.
Tongue River Reservoir State Park, Below-Dam, Day-use and Camping area project.
5. If applicable:
- Estimated construction/commencement date
June, 2004
- Estimated completion date
August, 2004
- Current status of project design (% complete)
30%
6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).
Area West of County Road in R40E T8S NE1/4NE1/4 S13 and
R41W T8S NW1/4NW1/4 S18 East of the Tongue River
7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:
- (a) Developed:
residential..... __ acres
industrial __ acres
- (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation..... 4 acres
- (c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas __ acres
- (d) Floodplain __ acres
- (e) Productive:
irrigated cropland __ acres
dry cropland __ acres
forestry __ acres
rangeland __ acres
other..... __ acres
8. Map/site plan: Please reference attachment 'A'

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.

The proposed project is for that portion of Tongue River Reservoir State Park immediately below Tongue River dam. Tongue River Reservoir State Park receives approximately 80,000 plus visitors annually. The downstream site is popular with those seeking a less crowded camping experience, those who do not have a motorized watercraft and or those wishing to fish below the dam where greater fish species diversity exists. As a result, the project site is currently receiving heavy use by recreationists in spite of the fact it lacks formally designated and developed roadways, picnic areas, campsites and parking areas. This has resulted in a haphazard network of deeply rutted, two-track trails and other associated impacts to the site. This project will address these needs by providing 13 designated campsites complete with picnic tables and fire rings, associated access roadways and parking areas for day-use fisherman, picnicians and people who float the river and leave a vehicle behind. Portions of the existing two-track trails will be incorporated into new access roadways. The remaining vehicle trails will be obliterated and revegetated.

9. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

The project has been contemplated for some time and is outlined in Tongue River Basin Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement, March 1996, 2.3.9.10, Page 2-32.

No Action. This alternative leaves the area in its current primitive state of development, allowing indiscriminant use of area. This has resulted in pioneered roads, campsites and parking areas. Also of concern is the inability of controlling campfire siting and usage, which may cause wildfire. The proposed project will result in designated campsites, roads and related camping enhancements. It is anticipated the project as proposed will enhance the public camping and recreating experience at this existing high-use site.

11. Listing of each local, state or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Funding	
Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Funding Amount: \$25,000

(b) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name: DNRC, Water Project Office	Type of Responsibility: Landowner

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), State of Montana
13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:
Bob Peterson, Park Manager, Tongue River Reservoir State Park, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
14. Date submitted: April 16, 2004

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

a. Addition of 13 designated gravel pad campsites, new roadway and small parking areas will result in some disruption, displacement, compaction, and over-covering during construction phase. Additionally, existing pioneered roadways and adjacent areas damaged by unregulated vehicular use will be eliminated and be revegetated to natural condition.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Air” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

a.& b. During construction phase of the project, equipment emissions will increase in the short-term.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Water” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?			X			
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

e. Minor potential for exposure of people and property to flooding during extremely high water years and use of the emergency spillway on dam.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Vegetation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X			
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

a. Project site plan utilizes existing trees for values and campsite designation

e. Project should reduce the potential for noxious weed establishment through elimination of pioneered roads and camp spots. Potential for weed establishment will exist in the short-term, immediately following construction before reseeded grasses establish themselves. Site is currently monitored for weeds, a practice that will continue following completion of the project.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Fish/Wildlife” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?			X			
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?			X			
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

f. & h. Potential of minor disturbance to bald eagle usage of area in winter should a significant increase in over-night camping occur as result of this project.

g. Possible increase in legal and illegal harvest of fish and waterfowl due to increased public use of area.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Noise/Electrical Effects” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

a. Should an unanticipated significant increase in usage occur as a result of this project, there would be an increase in existing noise levels.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Use” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
g. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Risk/Health Hazards” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Community Impact” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Public Services/Taxes/Utilities” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify:		X				
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Other.		X				
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	Park fees from increased public camping usage					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	Absorbed in existing FWP operations budget for Tongue River Reservoir State Park.					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Aesthetics/Recreation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)			X			
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

c. Will increase recreational opportunity. Positive Impact.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Cultural/historical Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		X				
e. Other:		X				

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Summary Evaluation of Significance” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole.

Proposed project is designed to improve existing conditions at the Downstream camp area at Tongue River Reservoir State Park. Although some minor impacts have been identified, they will be restricted to the construction phase. Proposed project will create a more organized camp area at this existing recreation site through elimination of random driving patterns and creation of designated camp-sites. Both of which should reduce the chance of weed infestations and reduce impacts to existing vegetation and allow for reestablishment of plant communities.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO ☒ _____

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

The project serves only to improve an already existing park. Therefore, the Environmental Assessment (E.A.) checklist is deemed the appropriate level of review for a project of this type.

3. Describe the public involvement for this project.
The EA will be advertised in the *Billings Gazette*, *Helena Independent Record* and the *Sheridan Press*.

4. What was the duration of the public comment period? 30 days

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.

Tongue Reservoir State Park Downstream Campground Renovation

